



MSC/MSCT Parent & Swimmer Code of Conduct

Statement of Policy

- A. It is the purpose of McAllen Swim Club (MSC/MSCT) to promote the sport of swimming and in the process help to develop the character of the individual swimmers.
- B. For the orderly operation of the McAllen Swim Club (MSC/MSCT), certain rules, regulations and procedures for enforcing same must be established. Personal conduct must not bring discredit to the individual swimmer, his/her parents or guardian, fellow team members or coaches, or the McAllen Swim Club (MSC/MSCT).
- C. This Code of Conduct shall apply to swimmer and parent conduct while a member of the McAllen Swim Club (MSC/MSCT), whether or not occurring during or at an activity or function that is associated with the McAllen Swim Club (MSC/MSCT).
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As a member of the McAllen Swim Club (MSC/MSCT), I am part of a swimming organization that believes teamwork, integrity, respect and good sportsmanship are more important than winning. By signing this Code of Conduct, I agree to follow the rules for behavior and sportsmanship while I am a member of MSC/MSCT. The following behavior guidelines state the principles MSC/MSCT expects all members to demonstrate and uphold.

MSC/MSCT is fortunate to have experienced, professional coaches working to develop our children into better swimmers, and more importantly, teaching and instilling important life skills. These skills include time-management, self-discipline, and sportsmanship. Your child will reap the benefits of swimming long after his/her participation with MSC/MSCT ends.

As parents, it is absolutely essential that we give our coaching staff the respect and authority they deserve to run our swim team. Our coaches are hired for that purpose and the Board of Directors & Head Coach oversee the direction of the staff.

PART I – PARENTS CODE of CONDUCT

- Set the right example for our children by showing respect and common courtesies at all times to the team members, coaches, competitors, officials, parents, and for all facilities and other property used during practice or competition.
- Respect the integrity of swim officials by assuming decisions are based on honest, objective evaluations of performance. Only coaches may approach meet officials for clarification of rulings.
- Understand that opposing teams, including their swimmers, coaches, and fans, want the same positive experiences for their swimmers as we do. Help MSC/MSCT achieve our goals by avoiding criticism either verbally or by gesture. Look for opportunities to build rapport with teams that we compete and work with.

- Demonstrate good sportsmanship during all practices, competitions and team activities. Promote good sportsmanship by setting an example and by helping others to do likewise. MSC/MSCT win gracefully, lose graciously and congratulate their opponents either way
- Be an active participant in all fundraising events and other team activities and encourage and support your child by permitting them to be timely for practices and competitions.
- Realize that swimmers become easily confused when coached by parents and benefit most from positive reinforcement of the professional coaching staff's instructions and advice. Your unconditional love and support before and after races will help them best.
- Recognize that MSC/MSCT coaches are professionals and allow them to coach your child without interference during workouts and meets, including not being present on deck during practice or competitions unless you are working at the meet.
- Support your professional coaches as they strive to do what is best for each MSC/MSCT swimmer. Our expectations and methods are based on USA Swimming, the American Swim Coaches Association and other recognized swimming authorities.
- If you have concerns, you will address it with the appropriate coach in private.
- Maintain open and honest communication among all members of the MSC/MSCT family. We reach our common goals by working together.
- Insist that your child refrain from using alcohol, tobacco, drugs, other prohibited substances, violence, abusive or foul language, inappropriate sexual conduct, or any other behavior deemed dishonest, discourteous, offensive or disrespectful of others.

PART II – PARENT – BASIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Practice teamwork with all parents, swimmers, and coaches by supporting the values of Discipline, Loyalty, Commitment, and Hard Work.
- Assist the coaches in conducting effective practices by ensuring swimmers arrive and leave on time, and bring the proper equipment.
- Arrive at meets in time for volunteer or swimmer check in, stretching and warm-ups.
- Represent MSC/MSCT with excellence, respect, team spirit, good sportsmanship, and politeness
- Maintain self-control at all times. Refrain from inappropriate behavior that detracts from a positive image of the team or is detrimental to our performance objectives.
- Know your role. Swimmers – Swim / Coaches – Coach / Officials – Officiate / Parents – Parent
- Call or meet with coaches during normal business hours before or after practice/meets to discuss issues.

- Do not coach your child at practice or during meets, that is the coach's job.
- Assist the coaches by not talking with or motioning to swimmers during practices unless clearing it with a coach first.
- Do not interrupt or confront the coaching staff on the pool deck during practice or meets.
- Trust and support your swimmer's and coach's decisions around goal-setting, training commitments, swim event entries, and meet schedules. Do not impose your ambitions on your child.
- Any questions about disqualifications, judging, etc should be directed to your swimmer's coach.
- Get involved....be an official, work on the board, help plan a fundraiser, help plan a group social. Find something you enjoy!
- Share the burden among parents by volunteering to help at meets.
- Pay your fees on time.
- Know and uphold MSC/MSCT rules, regulations, management and coach directives, and by-laws that are designed to maximize the experience for all swimmers and parents.

PART III – SWIMMER CODE of CONDUCT

The undersigned athlete participating with/for the McAllen Swim Club (MSC/MSCT) agrees to abide by the guidelines outlined below in addition to those established by the staff.

- Swim for the fun of it, not just to please your parents or coach.
- Make every team practice, meet participation and activity an opportunity to learn.
- Swimmers are expected to remember that at practice, during swim meets, team activities and in public they are representing MSC/MSCT. They should represent MSC/MSCT with excellence, respect, team spirit, good sportsmanship, and politeness.
- Swimmers are expected at all times to follow the directions of any member of the coaching staff, respect any instructions by officials and any person who is a chaperone or volunteer. Disrespect or failure to obey instructions will not be tolerated from any athlete.
- Swimmers are expected to show respect, common courtesies and good sportsmanship at all times to the team members, coaches, competitors, officials, parents and for all facilities and other property used during practices, competitions and team activities.

- Swimmers should be punctual and arrive on time for all practices and meets and team events. Pool time is very valuable.
- Swimmers are required to attend all team meetings, practice sessions and swim meets (if registered for meets), unless excused by staff or have made special arrangements with their coach.
- Swimmers must notify the coach in advance if they are planning to leave practice or swim meets early.
- Swimmers are expected to wear MSC/MSCT team caps at all practices and team swim suits and team caps at all swim meets. This displays team pride and also makes it easier to identify swimmers on the blocks and in the water.
- Swimmers will come to all team sponsored events in the appropriate attire.
- Swimmers should be an active participant in all team practices, competitions, fundraising events and other team activities.
- Focus on every drill and every set. Be committed to putting forth your best effort everyday. An honest effort does not include cutting laps, pulling on lane lines or missing send offs/sets.
- Disruption of practice by an athlete will be grounds for removal. Continual cheating in a practice will be considered a disruption of practice.
- The coaches are there to help the swimmers. Swimmers are expected to pay attention and follow all of the coach's instructions completely and exactly. If any clarification is needed, they are to ask questions politely.
- Swimmers are expected to use appropriate language. Use of profane or abusive language or obscene gestures will not be tolerated.
- Dishonestly, theft, and/or vandalism will not be tolerated.
- Indiscreet or destructive behavior will not be tolerated
- Every effort should be made to avoid guilt by association with such activities as those listed above.
- There shall be no drinking of alcohol or use of tobacco products or illegal drugs or any substances banned by USA Swimming
- Swimmers are expected to respect each other. Fighting, intentional touching or striking another athlete will subject the swimmer to the most severe discipline.

Swimmers are expected to follow the spirit of the rules as well as the specific rules. The coach must adapt this philosophy to an infinite number of situations. Swimmers are asked to respect the coach's directions and give their full cooperation. Cooperation with teammates and staff will produce a productive practice environment and competitive environment for all.

PART IV – VIOLATION OF THE CODE

The coaches have the authority to impose the following penalties for violation of the McAllen Swim Club Code of Conduct.

Levels of Inappropriate Behavior

Level I - Deals with behavior that is: somewhat disruptive to the team; does not portray the McAllen Swim Club in a good light; or other actions that are not in compliance with appropriate behavior as a member of the team or society in general.

Level II – Deals with behavior that is: considered significantly disruptive to the team; has a detrimental effect on one's self, other members of the team or the general public; causes significant damage to the reputation of the club; or may lead to the injury of self or other persons.

Level III – Deals with behavior that is: considered very severe and disruptive to the team; or likely to cause significant harm or injury to yourself or others. These are actions that are so detrimental that is not desirable to have such a person associated with the team.

The penalties include, but are not limited to, the following:

Initial

- The swimmer will be given a verbal warning.
- The swimmer will be pulled out of practice in addition to a verbal warning and the coach will contact the parent.
- The swimmer will need to be accompanied by a parent at practice for four (4) consecutive days.
- If the swimmer continues his/her bad behavior, he/she will be suspended for one (1) week. (There will be NO prorated fee for monthly dues.)
- If the swimmers disciplinary problem continues, the swimmer and parent will meet with the coach to discuss the problem further.

Upon disciplinary action towards the athlete or parent, that member has Ten (10) business days to appeal to the board before that disciplinary action occurs.

Initial

I agree that if I violate any of these rules, I will be subject to disciplinary action determined by the coaches, which may include expulsion from the team.

As **Parent Members**, our role is first and foremost is to parent our children and encourage the positive growth and development of our swimmers and their learning environment. The following protocol should be used to address any concerns:

1. Parent shall speak **privately** to the Coach / Head Coach.
2. If the concern requires further action, the Coach / Head Coach shall meet with the executive board to address the concern.
3. If then, the concern requires further action, the executive board shall take the actions necessary to resolve the issue. Once the issue has been resolved, any further action or retaliation from any member shall result in disciplinary action as referred to in Article III of the MSC Bylaws.

By placing your name below, you agree that you have reviewed the McAllen Swim Club Code of Conduct with the registered athlete and the athlete understands the McAllen Swim Club Code of Conduct and that you (the parent/guardian) and the swimmer agree to abide by this Code and accept the penalties for not abiding by these.

PARTICIPANT NAME: _____

PARTICIPANT SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

LEGAL GUARDIAN Name: _____

If minor

GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____